



# China Solar Power Tower

What is a solar power tower?

A solar power tower, also known as 'central tower' power plant or 'heliostat' power plant, is a type of solar furnace using a tower to receive focused sunlight. It uses an array of flat, movable mirrors (called heliostats) to focus the sun's rays upon a collector tower (the target).

How big is China's solar power plant?

The plant covers an area of 33,000 acres (200,000 Chinese mu) and is reported to have an output of 6.09 billion kWh annually. Data released by China's National Agency in January revealed that the country's solar electric power generation capacity grew by a staggering 55.2 percent in 2023.

Where is solar power generated in China?

Most of China's solar power is generated within its western provinces and is transferred to other regions of the country. In 2011, China owned the largest solar power plant in the world at the time, the Huanghe Hydropower Golmud Solar Park, which had a photovoltaic capacity of 200 MW.

How much solar power does China have?

At the end of 2020, China's total installed photovoltaic capacity was 253 GW, accounting for one-third of the world's total installed photovoltaic capacity (760.4 GW). Most of China's solar power is generated within its western provinces and is transferred to other regions of the country.

Should China invest in solar energy?

As such, critics argue that investments into renewable energy sources such as solar power are means to increase the power of the central state rather than protect the environment. This argument has been complemented by China's expansion of fossil fuel plants in conjunction with solar energy.

Is China a good source of solar power?

Since China is responsible for 80% of the world's polysilicon production, with half of the world's polysilicon produced in Xinjiang, many critics of the forced labor usage have stated that it is difficult for many countries to avoid Chinese-made solar power solutions.

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